



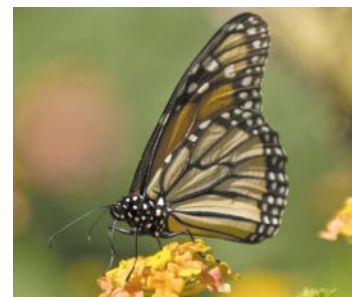
RESOURCES



NATURE, HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

An IABC Silver Inkwell and AMPC MarCom Award and Hermes Creative Award-winning publication

VOLUME 8, NO. 3 SUMMER 2008



RESTORING HUNTLEY MEADOWS

Huntley Meadows is beautiful, but parts are not healthy. Disturbing the land will improve its health.

You may walk out this summer into one of the prettiest spots in Fairfax County and see a bulldozer. Huntley Meadows needs some stewardship help if we're going to protect the only large-scale non-tidal wetland in the county.

Wetlands change over time. Ponds fill in. This is called succession, and it's normal. Huntley Meadows Manager Kevin Munroe says, "If we want that biodiversity there in 50 years, we have to manage it. It's a long-term view. If we did nothing, then in about ten years the wetlands would be a young, shrubby forest. That's not bad, but we would lose the marsh."

There is no other large-scale, non-tidal wetland in the county like the 50 acres at Huntley Meadows.

The Beavers Arrive

The marsh was created when beavers dammed Barnyard Run in 1978, three years after the Park Authority acquired Huntley Meadows. Development in the 1980s surrounded the park with suburbs, and silt from the construction drained into the park area. Roads and other impervious surfaces meant faster runoff after rain, and that damaged the sides of streams, which meant still more silt. The wetland now is seven-to-eight inches shallower than it once was. Beavers kept water levels elevated for years at a time, causing plants that cannot handle prolonged inundation to die off and promoting the growth of plants that can handle it.



Water levels fluctuate in a healthy wetland.

the site, the Park Authority will build a 600-foot-long earthen berm that functions as a small dam. There also will be an access road for the berm and several wetland pools. The goals are to mimic the natural water cycles of the area and to protect the plant and animal communities of this local, native, non-tidal freshwater marsh.

Munroe says there will be "a period of loud and ugly." Large equipment will access the park at the South Kings Highway entrance. The hike/bike trail there will be temporarily closed at times while construction vehicles are using it.

continued on page 8

Because of the wetland, there have been animals in the park, particularly birds, reptiles and amphibians, that breed nowhere else in the county, and others appear in far greater numbers than elsewhere. Munroe says, "There are other woodlands. There is no other site like this one in the county."

The Project

To preserve the wetland and assure there's enough water at

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NATURAL RESOURCE AND HISTORIC SITES

BURKE LAKE PARK

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600

COLVIN RUN MILL

10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771

ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK

5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013

FRYING PAN FARM PARK

2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101

GREEN SPRING GARDENS

4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173

HIDDEN OAKS NATURE CENTER

7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065

HIDDEN POND NATURE CENTER

8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK

3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525

LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464

LAKE FAIRFAX PARK

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414

RIVERBEND PARK

8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018

SULLY HISTORIC SITE

3601 Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

HISTORIC PROPERTIES RENTAL SERVICES

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm
Call 703-827-0609

Need directions or more information?

VISIT www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

SUMMER EVENTS



Antique Car Show

June 15,
10am-3:30pm,
Sully Historic Site,
703-437-1794.

Celebrate Father's Day at Sully's Annual Antique Car Show co-sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority and The Model A Ford Club of America. \$9/adult, \$8/senior, \$6/child

Goodnight Walks:

Who-oo is in the Forest at Night?

June 21, July 15, August 9, (4 yrs. & up),
7-8pm, Hidden Oaks Nature Center,
703-941-1065.

Sounds of the night fill our ears with delight! Take a night-time stroll along the Old Oak Trail. Reservations, prepayment required. \$5

Make Your Backyard a Wildlife Habitat

June 22, July 26, (Adults), 11am-12pm,
Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 703-941-1065.

Make your backyard or apartment balcony a habitat for wildlife. Learn how to get your backyard certified with the National Wildlife Federation. Sponsored by the Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Reservations required. FREE

Rowing by River Animals

Friday, June 27, (All ages, one person in the boat must be 16 or older), 9-10:30am,
Riverbend Visitor Center, 703-759-9018.

Search for wildlife along the Potomac. Rowing experience not required. Boats, PFD's provided. Reservations, advance payment required. Maximum 3 people/boat. \$20/boat

World War II Living History

July 12 & 13, 10am-4pm Saturday, 10am-3pm Sunday,
Sully Historic Site, 703-437-1794.

Sully hosts World War II reenactors. \$7/adult, \$5/senior and child

Search for Snakes

Tuesdays, July 22 and August 12, 9-11 am, (8 yrs. and up), Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. 703-631-0013.

Slither out to the park and search for snakes with a naturalist. Wear shoes that can get wet. Reservations, advance payment required. \$5

Water Festival & National Watermelon Day

Sunday, August 3, (5-10 yrs.), 1-3pm,
Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 703-941-1065.
Explore a discovery room of wet and wild self-guided learning stations. Hike to the creek for water tests and critter searches. Sponsored by the Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Reservations, advance payment required. \$6/child



Civil War Reenactment

Civil War Encampment Weekend

August 16 & 17, 10am-4pm Saturday,
10am-3pm Sunday, Sully Historic Site,
703-437-1794.

Federal and Confederate troops re-create Civil War life. Skirmishes each day. Live music and a fashion show. House tour includes artifacts rarely on exhibit. \$7/adult, \$5/senior and child or two-day ticket \$12/adult, \$8/senior and child

Dinosaur Film and Craft Festival

Sunday, August 24 and 31, (4-8 yrs.),
3-4:15pm, Hidden Oaks Nature Center,
703-941-1065.

Explore fossils, footprints and films. Parent and child program. Reservations, advance payment required. \$4/child, \$1/adult

Sully Quilt & Fiber Arts Show

September 7, 10am-4:30pm.

Vendors at the 35th annual show selling new and antique American-made quilts and fiber arts. Northern Virginia Quilters Unlimited members provide demonstrations. House tour included. \$9/adult, \$8/senior, \$6/child

Horticulture for Kids

Garden Strolls and Summer Teas

Call Green Spring Gardens, 703-642-5173, for information on summer programs in the gardens.

RESOURCES

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The Perfectly Named Park

By Nancy Russo

A peek at a park that has something for everyone



The trails of Eakin Park offer a variety of ways to travel.

Putting people in the parks is a Park Authority goal. It's all about parks, and it's all about community. That's why Eakin Community Park has a perfect name. It's a park with a community base that came about because of a partnership, and it's worth a visit.

Eakin Community Park is near the Mantua neighborhood, not far from the intersection of the Beltway and Gallows Road. The park preserves over 300 acres along the Accotink Stream Valley. The Prosperity Road entrance is a popular spot for families to picnic while the children climb, swing and slide at the playground. The Tobin Road entrance is convenient to the softball fields, tennis courts and garden plots. At the Hamilton Road entrance, there are tennis courts, a baseball field, a basketball court, a playground and a picnic area.

Though there's parking, many residents of the nearby Fairfax and Annandale neighborhoods arrive on foot or by bicycle. The Cross County Trail (CCT) passes through the park, and there are several side trail loops. The trails offer opportunities to walk dogs or to spot wildflowers, birds, deer and other critters that make a home in the woodland habitat of the stream valley.

The Eakin family offered the property to Fairfax County as parkland before the Fairfax County Park Authority was created in 1950. The Eakin family also donated land for Pine Ridge Park, which connects to Eakin Community Park via the CCT. Eakin Properties, Inc. developed the surrounding neighborhoods of Pine Ridge and Mantua in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mr. John R. Eakin, Jr., the treasurer of the Fairfax County Park Foundation, said of the park, "Our family is glad Eakin Community Park is available to the community. We appreciate the Park Authority's recognition of our family. We are happy to have been helpful in starting the park with a family donation of the original 15 acres and a trust fund available for future improvements."

The popularity of this local park shows the value of park partnerships and the foresight and community spirit of the Eakin family.



Eakin Park is a family park.

You can support parks like Eakin Community Park by sending a check made payable to the Fairfax Park Foundation, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 404, Fairfax, VA 22035, or go online to www.fxpparks.org.

The Fairfax County Park Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

An Eagle Scout Takes Flight At A Park

By Randy Froehlich, Eagle Scout

Scouts often partner with county parks for needed projects.

Randy Froehlich recently became an Eagle Scout with a stop at Hidden Pond.



Randy Froehlich, with shovel, working on his Eagle Scout project at Hidden Pond.

An Eagle project is one of the last steps on a long road before a Boy Scout can attain the highest rank, Eagle Scout. I recently completed my project at Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield. One of the hardest things to do when completing an Eagle project is to find one, but I found success when I got in contact with Mr. Jim Pomeroy, the park manager at Hidden Pond.

Mr. Pomeroy was one of the most helpful people I worked with while doing my project. Although he did not have anything specifically set aside as an Eagle project, he gave me permission to walk around the park and see if I could find anything that needed fixing. I came upon a set of rotting stairs made up of old pieces of timber. I raised the idea of replacing those stairs to Mr. Pomeroy, and he approved it as soon as I explained to him what I wanted to do. We kept in contact as I embarked on the long, tedious process



The completed project.

of my write-up, which involved making a plan and getting many more approvals.

After planning and buying supplies, I was ready to begin the actual work. Mr. Pomeroy was away the weekend I worked on my project, but Acting Manager Mike McCaffrey gave me the go-ahead to start.

I had ten people helping out. We cleaned the trail of debris within 30 minutes and then went to work on the old steps. We realized the easy part was removing the old ones, as

they had nothing staking them to the ground. The hard part was trying to fit a smaller piece of wood into the big hole that was left behind. We recycled a lot of dirt and made the steps as level as possible. After snugly fitting the new wood into the ground, we used rebar, common steel bars, to secure it to the ground. Brothers Shane and Keegan Halley, two of my helpers, went into a working frenzy and replaced about half of the stairs by themselves. My group had a great work ethic and finished the project in one day. I had expected it to take two.

After completing my project I was overwhelmed with a sense of accomplishment. I had finished! The steps were now in better shape, which made the trail a safer place for hikers trekking through Hidden Pond Nature Center. And I'm grateful. I know I could never have done it without the help I received from Mr. Pomeroy and the others at Hidden Pond Nature Center.

Trails After National Trails Day

By Troy Albert, Park Authority Volunteer

If you missed National Trails Day, the trails are still there!



Casual or...

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, in early June each year, is a great way to celebrate the outdoors. But even if you miss spending that day outdoors, the stars of the show are there every day, every season and waiting for you to enjoy! Each season provides its own unique reasons for putting tread on the trails, but summer may offer more options than any other time of year.

The variety of trails in Fairfax County is as limitless as the available activities on them, and the experience of being on a trail is as individual as the person taking the walk. Perhaps you're not the traditional "hiker." No worry. People, leashed dogs and equestrians use the mixed-use trails twisting through pasture and along a waterfall in Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon. Whether you want a short and leisurely walk from Hidden Pond Nature Center along the soothing waters of Pohick Creek in Pohick Stream Valley Park, or you feel adventurous enough to take on the seven-mile

transverse to Loudoun County through Riverbend Park, there truly is a trail for everyone.

Once you're on a trail, make sure that you take in the many natural scenes that will transform your trek from an ordinary exercise routine to a fun, nature odyssey. If you and your family stroll the wetlands boardwalk in Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria, you could see turtles, herons, beavers and other Chesapeake native species in their natural habitats. If you went to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in Chantilly, you could explore by foot or bike any of several miles of trails winding through healthy forests and along streams.

Of course, there's the Cross County Trail — over 40 miles of trail from north to south across the county.

So, hit the trails this summer. Whether you like rugged or reflective, rigorous or relaxing, there's a Fairfax County Park Authority trail that calls to you.

*Whether you like
rugged or reflective,
rigorous or relaxing,
there's a Fairfax
County Park
Authority trail
calling to you.*



...rugged, there's a county trail for your hiking style.

What's RMD?

RMD stands for Resource Management Division. It's part of the Fairfax County Park Authority. RMD connects people to natural, historic and horticultural resources. We're online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/.

CATALOGING HISTORY

Catalogs came long before the Internet. You could buy anything you wanted through a catalog, including a house. The recently refurbished Spindle House in Centreville is an original Sears catalog home and an excellent example of the way some northern Virginians lived in the early 20th century.

Roger Spindle worked for the Post Office in Washington during the Great Depression. He and his wife, Wilma, ordered the house from Sears, Roebuck and Co. in January 1934. It cost \$1,244.

The house, just under 1,000 square feet, has two bedrooms, a living room, a small kitchen, a dining room and a basement. There's also a bathroom, which was an option. The Spindles also opted for electricity because they lived close to an electric line that ran along Lee Highway. Other Centreville residents didn't get electricity until the early 1940s. Most of the home's original electrical and plumbing fixtures are intact.

The house is part of Mount Gilead at the Historic Centreville Park, which also contains Civil War earthen works, an 18th century tan yard, and a family graveyard that staffers have renovated and re-fenced with materials from the original manufacturer. It's been a source of archaeological information, and it has earned a spot in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/historic/ihf/).

There were over 100,000 Sears houses sold in the first half of the 20th century, and we've got one that's practically untouched by modern times.

Drop by and take a look at the way we were.

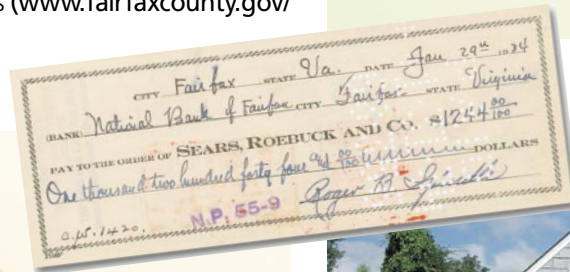
Sears, Roebuck and Co. produced houses for almost 40 years in the first half of the 20th century. Sears asked \$1 for its Modern Homes Catalog, and the dollar was credited toward the purchase of a house. Electric lighting and indoor plumbing were options.

House components and an instruction manual were shipped to the buyer's nearest railway station. Sears pre-cut every piece of wood and stamped them with a number indicating where they go, so a local carpenter could put a house together.

Sears closed its Modern Homes Division in 1940 because of declining sales and defaults on mortgages following the Great Depression.



The Sears house in 1939.



The Sears house during refurbishing.

Further Information

See the Spindle Sears House at 5714 Mount Gilead Road in Centreville.

On the Web: www.searsarchives.com • www.novahistory.org • www.centrevilleva.org
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/mtgilead.htm

Hidden Treasure In Fairfax County Parks

By Carol Ochs, Park Authority Volunteer

Cash in on some fun this summer by giving geocaching a try. Just be sure to hunt down the rules governing caches in the parks before you launch your quest.

If you've never heard of it, geocaching is a modern-day treasure hunt in which a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) receiver takes the place of a pirate's treasure map. Modest "treasures," known as caches, are hidden in more than 80 Fairfax County parks that allow geocaching with no special permission. A list of those parks is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/geocaching.htm.

Dan Sutherland, Park Authority Grounds Management Branch Manager, says geocaching is a good way to get people into the parks. "It stimulates the mind and can be a great family activity."

To protect the county's natural and historic treasures, as well as the ones in the cache, geocaching guidelines are posted on the Park Authority website. The guidelines are designed to keep treasure hunters safe while encouraging good stewardship of the land.

Sutherland says the most important thing to remember is to "be sensitive to the parkland itself and what exists there, both the natural and cultural resources."

If you would like to place a cache in a park not already on the list, you must seek written permission from the Park Authority. You can do that online at the geocaching website.

If you get the go-ahead, secure and conceal your cache according to the guidelines. If your request is turned down, there are many possible reasons. Among them:

- * Lack of developed areas within the park.
- * Lack of safe and legal parking near the park.
- * A topography that could make the park unsafe for geocachers or damaging to cultural or natural resources.

Now, go find your inner pirate, and let the hunt begin!



Finding a cache in the woods.

Photo by Carol Ochs

Here are a few examples of rules for geocaching in Fairfax County parks

- Geocachers must follow park rules and may not geocache at night.
- Geocaches may be placed only in developed park areas that have maintained asphalt, concrete or gravel trails.
- Geocaches must be within 25 feet of a trail or a developed area.
- Place geocaches only in areas where the ground or vegetation won't be damaged by people looking for the caches.

HUNTLEY MEADOWS *continued from page 1*

KEVIN MUNROE HOSTS MONTHLY TALKS about the wetland restoration project. These Park Manager walk-and-talk programs will continue for about two years. Please call the park for dates and times.

The wetland restoration project will raise water levels at Huntley Meadows one-to-two feet and give park staffers the ability to raise and lower water levels.

Interspersed refuge pools will be dug to protect against drought.

Trees that are removed will be recycled on the property as brush shelters, wildlife habitat and as woodchips for trails.



Before construction vehicles arrive, volunteers will go into the wetlands and pick up frogs and snakes and valuable plants and move them to safer places in the park.



Long drought and low water levels show the need for managing the wetland.

The big machines and chain saws will make noise, however, wildlife will be disturbed as little as possible. There will be no construction during mating, birth and larva periods. The major work will take place between late July and Thanksgiving, the driest time of the year. That's also after the spring's newborns are grown and when animals are naturally moving about to eat and find shelter.

Some animals likely will leave temporarily, and some people may find it tough to be in the park for a month or two, but the end product will be rewarding. Munroe says the area will need one to three years for nature to fully re-establish itself before the project's success can be judged.

Park Authority Board Secretary Harry Glasgow echoes that, calling for patience during the project. He says, "The sight of heavy equipment in the central wetland area will be jarring, and the disruption to the wildlife will be distressing. But these intrusions will be scheduled and implemented to cause the least damage to the Park and will be temporary. It will be painful, but when it is done, we will have a magnificent central wetland area teeming with the great diversity of life found in all fresh water wetlands."

In the 1980s, "Everyone fell in love with this place, though we didn't know it at the time, when it was getting ready to decline," says Park Authority Naturalist Charles Smith, the natural resource specialist for the project. He adds, "This project is necessary."

Munroe says, "The central wetlands at Huntley Meadows Park have gone through changes. In order to protect the biodiversity we need to do restoration work to counteract those changes."



Good water quality invites youngsters to learn about nature.

The changes in the park have led to changes in the wildlife. Five birds that used to breed at the park — King rail, American bittern, least bittern, pied-billed grebe, yellow-crowned night heron — are no longer breeding in the park. Munroe says, "They were the canary in the coal mine for us." There's also been significant decline in crayfish, muskrats, otters and aquatic insects.



The entire food chain of a wetland is affected by a decline in crayfish.

Those animals will be keys to judging the project's long-term results. Munroe says, "If we can get those back, that will be a stamp of success."

There's more information about the project, including plans, a project summary and meeting dates, on the Park Authority website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley/restorationproject.htm.

Beavers Cut a Niche in the County

By Lori K. Weinraub, Park Authority Volunteer

It's time for beavers to take a well-deserved break at Huntley Meadows Park.



If it weren't for beavers, the largest non-tidal wetland in Fairfax County probably wouldn't exist and, if it did, it wouldn't be anything like the regionally unique, natural resource it is today, according to Dave Lawlor, the natural resources manager at Huntley Meadows.

The park's central wetland was perfect habitat for beavers, with lots of young woody growth. Beavers built dams and created the wetland that exists today, and the beavers have been maintaining it without input from humans, Lawlor said. That worked well for many years, but things started changing in the late 1980s. Naturalists noticed that some of the aquatic species that live at Huntley Meadows were dying off. Siltation from upstream development degraded water quality and smothered root systems while the beavers were keeping water levels elevated. That caused the death of vegetation that can't live permanently under water and promoted plant species that can. "Huntley Meadows is not just a bunch of trees," Lawlor said.

A restoration project, scheduled to begin this summer, will allow the Park Authority, rather than beavers, to manage the wetland, specifically to control the water level and allow it to fluctuate. Lawlor said the water level needs to rise and fall to maintain the health of the wetland. Naturalist Charles Smith added the Park Authority will promote vital plant communities, including the woody vegetation that attracts beavers.

The Park Authority won't harm the beavers, which Lawlor said are "great for us" because they create wetlands that improve water quality by removing pollutants and silt from the water.

Numbers are up in the county

No one knows exactly how many beavers live at Huntley Meadows, although their numbers are on the rise in the county. Lawlor said the exact number isn't important as long as they are there.

While there are no beaver-human conflicts at Huntley Meadows, that's not necessarily true in other parts of the county. Smith said conflicts are inevitable with development. People who live near water don't like to see trees lost to beavers, but Smith said beavers actually do a lot to manage streams and provide habitat for other animals.

The county has policies in place to help resolve beaver-human conflicts, and Smith said the best advice is learn to tolerate them, because they are an important part of the system.

*Learn more about beavers in Fairfax County
at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/
Type "beaver" in the search box.*

A Historic Retirement

Michael Rierson retires from the Park Authority this summer after 35 years of service.

Rierson is the Resource Management Division's Resource Stewardship Branch Manager, and he is the guy who gets things done. He oversees the sections of the Park Authority that manage and protect museum collections, cultural and natural resources, historic properties and this newsletter.

Park Authority Deputy Director Cindy Messinger says Rierson has an "incredible passion for history and natural things," and he has been vital to advancing the stewardship movement. He developed a research process that helps the county preserve the right things. He has a rare combination of knowledge about history, architecture, photography, natural resources, cultural resources and construction, and a mastery of county policies.

Rierson understands the importance of people to county historic preservation and says, "Most of our interpretation is people. The exhibits are secondary." He fosters a climate of initiative, creativity and implementation, and those are some of the reasons he was named the Park Authority's Supervisor of the Year in 2006 and earned a county Outstanding Performance Award last year.

Rierson joined the Park Authority in 1973 from the National Park Service, and in 1977 he became the head of the new Division of Historic Preservation, which focused on preserving historic sites in the county under the slogan "striving for excellence." A year later, Fairfax became the first county to have its history programs accredited by the American Association of Museums, which meant the county was following the same standards as establishments like the Smithsonian Institution. Rierson says it was "quite an honor" and sees it as one of the highlights of his career. Fairfax has since become one of the largest county historic preservation organizations.



Michael Rierson

Rierson says, "I was very happy to do the things I've done," and he views his personal relationships with Planning and Development staff as a significant career highlight. Facilities Support Manager Ron Pearson of the Park Operations Division has worked with Rierson for 13 years. Pearson says, "I have earned a great respect for Michael's professionalism and his willingness to teach me the principles and standards to which historic structures must be maintained." Pearson says Rierson's work ethic "has allowed the agency to move forward in providing a quality experience to the visitors of our historic sites and nature centers."

One of the last Park Authority projects managed by Michael Rierson is the refurbishing of the Sears House. Read about it on page six in this issue of *ResOURces*.

Among the projects managed by Michael Rierson:

- The Park Authority's first cultural resource park, Mount Air
- The refurbishing of the Sears House at Centreville
- Turning Ellmore Farm, with few funds, into what may be the nicest space the Park Authority has for meetings
- Planning and preservation of Historic Huntley that included a vision for public access
- Fort Willard
- Interpretive pods at Laurel Hill
- The opening of Dranesville Tavern
- Twin Lakes Golf Course clubhouse
- Sully Historic Site (1974 & 1990)
- Colvin Run Mill and Cabell's Mill
- Walney Visitor Center
- Wakefield Chapel
- Clark House
- Green Spring Farm Manor House
- Lewinsville House
- Confederate Fortifications

"His legacy will be doing the right thing and doing it right."

– Park Authority Deputy Director Cindy Messinger,
speaking about Michael Rierson.

RMD Awards and Rewards

☆ The Park Authority's Resource Management Division honored a historian and two naturalists at its 2008 Stewardship Award ceremony on April 8. Historian Dawn Kehrer received the Stewardship Award for diligence in creating a furnishings plan that ensures the accuracy of current and future exhibits at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site.

☆ Riverbend Park's Avery Gunther was the Outstanding Interpretive Program Award recipient. She's planned and implemented a variety of programs, camps and classes, especially for children under age six. Fellow Naturalist Ann Stat received the Excellence in Interpretive Services Award for breathing life into resource stewardship for a half-million visitors during the past 20 years.

Park Authority Acting Director Tim White, Deputy Director Cindy Messinger, Naturalist Avery Gunther, Park Board member Harry Glasgow, Historian Dawn Kehrer, Naturalist Ann Stat, RMD Division Acting Director Cindy Walsh and Park Board member Edward Batten.



☆ Park Authority employees Todd Brown and Charlie Reed received Fairfax County Outstanding Performance Awards in March. Brown is the site manager at Frying Pan Farm Park, and Reed is a senior survey analyst.

☆ ResOURces has won second place in the External Newsletter category of the 2008 Blue Pencil Awards sponsored by the National Association of Government Communicators. The award category is for newsletters distributed publicly by agencies at all levels of government — local, county, state and federal.

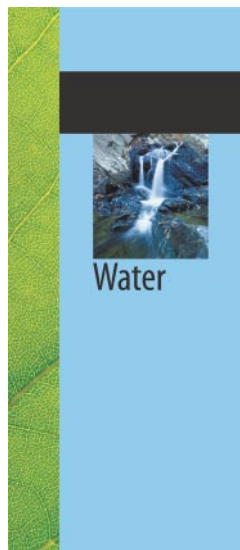
Celebrating Archaeology

We're celebrating 30 years of archaeology in Fairfax County. County-sponsored professional archaeological activities began in 1978. They're currently under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Crowell, the head of the Park Authority's Cultural Resource Management and Protection Services (CRMPS).

In February, Crowell was the program chairperson for the 38th annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. Over 300 people attended the gathering where 130 papers were presented, including presentations by Crowell, archaeologists Aimee Wells and Mike Johnson, and interns Madhumita Basu and April Cantrell of the CRMPS.



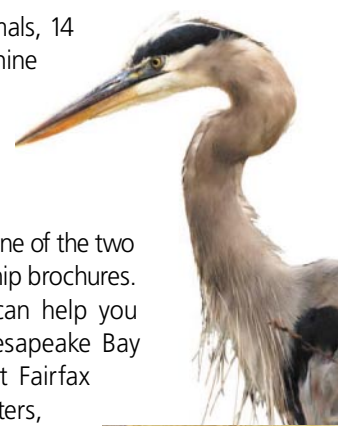
County archaeologists at work.



Water, Night and Stewardship

Where can you find 19 animals, 14 people, ten water creatures, nine birds, two insects, two centaurs, one head of hair, a serpent, a dragon, a flying horse and a river all in one place?

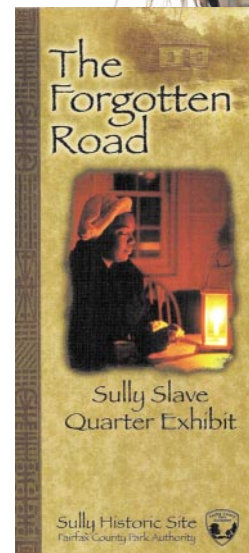
Look to the stars. "Night" is one of the two newest Fairfax County Stewardship brochures. The other is "Water," and it can help you protect your share of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. They're available at Fairfax County Park Authority RECenters, nature centers and historic sites, or click on *Stewardship Brochures* at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/.



The Forgotten Road

Learn about the lives and contributions of the enslaved community at Sully Historic Site in the new, full-color, glossy brochure, "The Forgotten Road." Peek at the publication, sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, and take the accompanying tour at Sully to learn about the slaves who lived and worked there in the 18th and early 19th centuries. For information, call 703-437-1794.

*Sully Historic Site is located on Route 28 in Chantilly.
It's online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully*



☐ Please enter my **FREE** subscription to **RESOURCES**.

Name (please print) _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____

Tell us what you'd like to read about!

- ☐ Nature centers ☐ Birds ☐ Gardening and horticulture
☐ Local history ☐ Archaeology
☐ Kids' projects ☐ Events ☐ What else?
☐ Hiking ☐ Historic sites _____

MAIL TO: Resources/RMD, Suite 936
 12055 Government Center Parkway • Fairfax, VA 22035-1118
or: subscribe through our website at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources



A VALUABLE FIND



Riverbend's Nicole Reintsma with the wood turtle.

Riverbend Park staff got a thrill last fall with the sighting of this wood turtle. Wood turtles, listed as threatened in Virginia, grow to about nine inches, and they emit a whistle when they court that sounds like a tea kettle. They're good climbers, don't travel far and live in a variety of habitats, but they must have a creek or stream nearby because they lose a lot of water through evaporation. Populations are down because of degraded and fragmented habitat, urbanization, vehicular deaths and collection for the pet trade.

SOMETHING SIMPLE YOU CAN DO TO BE A GOOD STEWARD:

Recycle. Conscientiously.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling/

HISTORIC PROPERTIES RENTAL SERVICES

RENT A HISTORIC PROPERTY from the Resource Management Division of the Fairfax County Park Authority. They're available for weddings, corporate and social gatherings.

Call **703-827-0609** or see the sites on the Web at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weddings.htm



Dranesville Tavern

- Cabell's Mill in Centreville
- Clark House in Falls Church
- Dranesville Tavern in Dranesville
- Great Falls Grange in Great Falls
- Hunter House in Vienna
- Forestville Schoolhouse in Great Falls
- Stone Mansion in Alexandria
- Wakefield Chapel in Annandale

IN YOUR EAR

Turn the tapping of your keyboard into the sounds of nature. Visit the Fairfax County Park Authority website and listen to your parks with an audio podcast. The first of a series of planned podcasts features the calls of frogs and toads as they awaken to warming weather, a welcome sign of spring! Nine common amphibians are featured. If you're not familiar with frog calls, you'll be surprised to hear yourself saying, "I know that sound!"



Give the website a listen. Then test your memory and ears with a trip to a park!

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/podcasts



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EQUAL ACCESS/SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at **703-324-8563**, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed.

ADA/Access Coordinator 703-324-8563 • TTY 703-803-3354
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ada.htm